TRAVANCORE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

SECOND COUNCIL.

SECOND SESSION, 1102.

(OFFICIAL REPORT.)

Friday, the 5th August, 1927/23rd Karkatakam, 1102.

The Council met in the Victoria Jubilee Town Hall, Trivandrum, at eleven thirty of the clock, M. E. Watts Esquire, B. A., Barrister-at-law, Dewan, presiding. All except the following members were present:—Mr. K. C. Mammen Mappillai and Mr. N. V. Joseph.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

Prosecution of Newspapers during the last 30 years.

57. **MR. K. P. NILAKANTA PILLAI** (*Chirayinkil*): Will the Government be pleased to state:

(*a*) whether there have been any cases during the last thirty years in which newspapers have been prosecuted in Travancore; and

(*b*) if so, the percentage of conviction?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*): (*a*) There have been cases of prosecution of newspapers during the last 30 years.

(*b*) 11·5 per cent.

MR. K. P. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Chirayinkil*): May I know what is the total number of newspaper prosecutions within the period referred to in my question?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*): 25.

Declaring the anniversary of His Highness the Late Maha Raja's Birthday a Public Holiday.

58. **MR. K. P. NILAKANTA PILLAI** (*Chirayinkil*): Will the Government be pleased to state:

(*a*) whether a deputation appointed at a public meeting waited on the Dewan and requested the Government to declare the anniversary of the birthday of the late Sri Mulam Tirunal Maha Raja, of revered memory, a holiday, and, if so, the date on which the deputation interviewed the Dewan and the reply given by him; and

(*b*) whether any orders have been passed on that matter?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*): (*a*) Yes; 4th November 1925. The reply then given was that the question would be duly considered.

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[Mr. K. George.]

(*b*) After carefully considering the question, the Government decided that, as the number of general holidays was already too many, they were unable to grant a holiday on Mulam day of Kanni every year. This was communicated to the leader of the deputation.

MR. K. P. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Chirayinkil*) : May I know how many public holidays there are in one year on religious grounds ?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*) : I have not made a calculation of that. So, that information is not with me now.

MR. K. P. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Chirayinkil*) : May I know whether he is in a position to say how many holidays there are on account of Hinduism, Mahomedanism, Christianity, etc ?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*) : The Government will be in a position to give that information if they collect the figures about it. But they have not done it.

MR. K. P. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Chirayinkil*) : Is it on account of the ground that if in one year a day more is declared a public holiday the work of the departments will suffer that the Government refused the request of the deputation ?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*) : The answer gives the reason why the request had to be declined; there are too many holidays already.

MR. K. P. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Chirayinkil*) : Is it that the number of holidays was already too many and that therefore the additional holiday could not be given ?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*) : Yes, that is the point.

MR. K. P. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Chirayinkil*) : Do the Government intend to reduce the number of holidays because of the fact that there are too many holidays already in a year ?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*) : Yes ; the question is under the consideration of the Government.

Assignment of Land to Captain Alexander.

59. **MR. K. P. NILAKANTA PILLAI** (*Chirayinkil*) : Will the Government be pleased to state :

(*a*) whether any *puduval* lands have been recently assigned to Captain Alexander in South Travancore (near Chittar), and, if the answer is in the affirmative, the date of the assignment and the extent of the lands so assigned ;

(*b*) when Captain Alexander applied for the registry of the above lands ;

(*c*) whether the Government have taken the opinion of the Revenue and P. W. D. authorities with regard to the assignment of the above area ;

(*d*) whether the area assigned is within the catchment area of the Chittar ;

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